

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR TRANSFERRING IDENTITY ASSERTION
INFORMATION BETWEEN TRUSTED PARTNERS SITES IN A NETWORK USING
ARTIFACTS

5 ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A method and system for transferring assertion information between affiliated partners in a network. In one embodiment, a method is disclosed for the transfer of identity information through the use of artifacts. A trusted 10 partner site of a network of trusted partner sites receives an artifact through a communication network. The artifact is associated with assertion information containing identity information associated with a user that is stored at the central service provider. To retrieve the assertion 15 information, the artifact is sent by the trusted partner site to the central service provider over the communication network. Thereafter, the central service provider processes the artifact and sends the assertion information back to the trusted partner site so that the assertion information is 20 received at the trusted partner site over the communication network. The trusted partner site can then determine access by the user based on the identity information.